

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 494 without my signature.

Although I support granting greater flexibility to high-performing schools and districts, provisions of this bill are unnecessary. Current law already authorizes the State Board of Education to waive restrictive program requirements for high-performing schools. Additionally, the California Department of Education already notifies districts more than 60 days in advance if it will be conducting a review of their categorical programs.

State policymakers should have a real discussion on what kind of autonomy and flexibility, beyond simply waiving program review, high-performing districts can earn for providing quality educational delivery that leads to higher student achievement.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger